

MEMO

TO: Mr. Tidwell, Principal Marion County Middle High School

FROM: Mr. Kagika, 7th grade Math Teacher

DATE: June 6, 2016

RE: Creating a Robotics Club



One of the main tenets of education in the United States is to prepare students to be ready for college and/or a career. Indeed, Marion County Middle High School's own mission statement seeks to provide all students with a quality education. I propose creating a robotics club in order to help students attain that quality education and get ready for the demands of college and/or a career. This club would be open to students in the high school as well as the middle school.

The curriculum for this Robotics Club will be adapted from Carnegie Mellon's Robotics Academy. Students in the Robotics Club will use Lego Mindstorms EV3 curriculum to navigate several design challenges. In the process of doing so the students will learn various concepts of computer programming, as well as apply several engineering practices such as: building solutions to real world problems, advancing problem solving strategies, and team work. A study conducted by the Georgia Department of Labor analyzing workforce trends has stated that STEM occupations are expected to add over 79,000 new jobs by 2020. This Robotics Club will help to ignite the students' interest in pursuing occupations and careers in the STEM fields.

The Lego Mindstorms EV3 curriculum is also aligned to common core state standards in Math, Science, English Language Arts, as well as principles of Computer Science. Thus the Robotics Club will augment the learning that the students do in their classrooms albeit in a fun and alternative environment.

I propose the following timeline to implement the Robotics Club. The first Robotics Club meeting should be held within the first week of school and will serve primarily as an interest meeting. Thereafter the club will meet every week on Thursday afternoon between 3:00 PM and 4:30 PM in the Eagle Room. The Robotics Club will be funded from various sources including Marion, Aflac, Tsys, and Pratt & Whitney. These sponsors have agreed to bear the brunt of the cost of the robots, curriculum licenses, storage bins, and practice tables. Additional opportunities for fundraising will occur throughout the school year through bake sales and raffles. Should you have any questions I am happy to meet with you to discuss the Robotics Club and any aspect of its proposed implementation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Kagika". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mr. Kagika